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General Activities of the Spanish Communist Party

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The decrease of Spanish Communist activity in France has caused some uneasiness in the rank and file of the Party. Secondary leaders have received orders from the directors of the Party to prepare themselves for a possible mass evacuation or expulsion of Spanish Communists from France. Among the top leaders, Enrique LISTER, according to source, has his trunks packed to be ready to go at a moment's notice. His house in Paris reportedly is under surveillance by four plain-clothes men. The records of the Party have been removed to Czechoslovakia and Poland, and the funds of some Communist-dominated organizations also have been taken out of France.

Euzkadi Roja has ceased publication. Lluita still appears, but not as frequently as formerly. At present Mundo Obrero is being widely circulated. Its circulation is increasing constantly in southern France, where it is sold in greater numbers than other anti-Franco periodicals. The Spanish Communists have established a bookshop service to sell publications of the "Publication in Foreign Languages" establishment in Moscow. The sale of two books has been ordered intensified. They are "History of the Bolshevik Communist Party of the USSR" and "The Great Conspiracy against the Soviet Union."

Dolores IBARRURI, ill in Prague, apparently with cancer of the liver, is not expected to recover. Source describes Vicente URIBE, acting Secretary General of the Party, as not overly intelligent, but practical. URIBE is incapable of fixing a general line of action but is a good tactician in day-to-day planning. He is one of the three members of the Party who according to source have acquired a solid position placing them beyond criticism. The others are Enrique LISTER and Antonio CORDON Garcia. Source believes that Juan COMOERA probably aspires to replace IBARRURI, but that the eventual successor probably will be URIBE.

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4. The preponderance of Spanish Communist forces, and all the activities of the PCE, have been evacuated to Prague. The leaders who are in Prague are included on the payrolls of various Czechoslovakian ministries and are paid by the Czechoslovakian Government.

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5. Other prominent Spanish Communists in Prague are Antonio CORDON, President of the Supreme Military Junta of the Party, who avoids getting involved in political matters, and Col. Jose Luis FUENTES Barrios. According to source, the latter is distrusted by the Communists although they use him; he is considered to be a Communist for convenience's sake.
6. Juan MODESTO is military Chief of Operations inside Spain, according to source, who adds that MODESTO'S liaison with the Supreme Military Junta is Enrique LISTER.
7. Jose GARCIA Acevedo is in Lille, where he has custody of the archives of the Spanish Maquis. He has managed to avoid going to Galicia although he had been selected as one of the guerrilla leaders for that area.
8. Major VERDUN reportedly is still in Marseille in charge of the liaison with North Africa, chiefly with Casablanca, and also is concerned with certain technical military questions, especially cartography.
9. A training school for Spanish Communists designated for guerrilla activity which reportedly has been set up in Rumania has an enrollment of about 250 young men, the majority of them coming from the USSR.* The school is directed by Manuel TAGUENA, former Chief of the XV Corps of the Republican Army.** Some of the pupils have had technical training in various subjects, but have not previously received training in the "politico-military orientation" of the guerrillas. When these pupils complete their training, they pass through Hungary and Czechoslovakia, to enter France through northern Italy. Reportedly, they go directly to Marseille for transfer to Spain.
10. Source confirms a previous report *** that the Political Bureau has been enlarged although no official communique has been issued. The new members are Juan COMORERA Soler, Irene FALCON, Enrique LISTER, Felipe Maria ARCONADA, Enrique de SANTIAGO, Josep MOIX and Leandro CARRO. The Basques and the Catalans were allowed to name their representatives; the rest were named directly by the Communist Party of Spain. Although it had been expected that Rafael VIDIELLA would be the Catalan representative, after much discussion Josep MOIX was named. Source stated that VIDIELLA had shown a tendency to favor autonomy of the PSUC. In the case of the Basques, Manuel CRISTOBAL Errandonea, was replaced at the last moment, for reasons unknown to source, by Leandro CARRO.
11. Enrique LISTER is concerned with the direction of the Party in Galicia, aided by two youths and a girl in Vigo. Santiago CARRILLO is one of the most intelligent Communists, but he is regarded with some mistrust. He is surrounded by a group of youths who work in the various sections of the Party, but with the bringing of new elements into the Political Bureau his star has dimmed a little.
12. Within the Political Bureau there are an extremist tendency centered around Antonio MIJE Garcia, a conciliatory group under the aegis of Francisco ANTON, and a group occupying a center position with URIBE as its leader. Source comments that MIJE'S contentiousness may have injured him in the Party.

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13. There have been no recent changes in the Central Committee of the Spanish Communist Party. When the case of Tito was discussed after the condemnation by the Cominform became known, three members of the Central Committee abstained from voting against him, arguing that since the PCE had a deposit of arms in Yugoslavia it would not be prudent to break all ties with the Tito regime. One of the three was Francisco Felix MONTEIL, but source does not believe MONTEIL'S position on the Tito question was connected with his withdrawal from the PCE.***
14. Periodically some member of the Central Committee goes to Spain, to control and criticize activities or to select new members for the Central Committee's delegation inside the country.
15. Tarbes and the surrounding area is the concentration point of the Spanish Communists in the Departements of southern France, and of some elements from Paris, border crossings into Spain being effected around Oloron-Sainte Marie. Individuals are able to cross the frontier more easily than when stolen stamps and papers, as well as documents, were used. The Spanish Government learned of such thefts and changed stamps and documents. As of mid-April the Communists had two specialists in France for documentation and stamps, who could produce forgeries indistinguishable from the genuine. Source stated that guerrillas currently being sent to Galicia have no difficulty in getting there.
16. Major stress is being placed by the PCE on guerrilla activities, according to source. Orders to send into Spain the greatest possible number of people, especially young men, have met with some resistance, and in several instances members who did not want to go into Spain have resigned from the Party and gone to Latin America. In order to keep intact Party organizations in the Departements of France, younger leaders are being replaced with older men who will not be ordered into Spain.
17. Source states that shipments of arms to Galicia have been made with the help of Portuguese Communists in smuggling operations around Oporto. A considerable number of automatic weapons, including pistols and machine guns, reportedly have reached Galicia.

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_____ referred to the reported existence of a school in Rumania for the training of Spanish Communists coming from the USSR.

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_____ has furnished the following biographical information on TAGUENA. Now 32 or 33 years old, TAGUENA is a native of Madrid and has a diploma in "Exact Sciences." When the Spanish Civil War ended, he was President of the Local Committee of the Federation of University Students. TAGUENA began his political life as a member of the Communist Youth, and belonged to the Students' Bloc of the Revolutionary Opposition (Bloque Estudiantil de Oposicion Revolucionaria). He became affiliated with the Socialist Youth in the era of revolutionary radicalism of LARGO Caballero around 1934. An active radical, he was slightly wounded in the uprising of October 1934. His military career began when he became aide to the

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Italian commander of the Largo Caballero Battalion, Fernando DELLA ROSA, early in the Civil War. When DELLA ROSA died, TAGÜENÁ was given the command. Soon afterwards, he commanded the 14th Division. When the Ebro campaign began, he was made a lieutenant colonel and given the command of the 15th Army Corps. He is considered to have been outstanding in the Republican Army for his military aptitude. Escaping to France at the end of the Civil War, TAGÜENÁ lived there a short time before going to Russia, where all during World War II he had a command in the Soviet Army. From Russia, he went directly to Spain to take charge of the guerrillas in Levante.

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